# BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN ROOM #318 PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Thursday October 17, 2013 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairman Othmer who requested Senior Deputy County Attorney for Risk and Compliance Adrienne Spadaccini lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Oliverio, Nacerino, Albano, Gross, LoBue, DiCarlo and Chairman Othmer were present. Legislator Castellano arrived at 6:09 P.M. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross.

Chairman Othmer stated that they would now review the proposed changes submitted by each Committee.

# RULES, ENACTMENTS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Chairwoman Nacerino, Legislators Castellano & DiCarlo)

**Chairman Othmer moved the following:** 

Legislator Oliverio stated in regard to Office Supplies, the \$5,500 is a safe amount as a lot of copying and printing takes place. He also mentioned the Book of Proceedings that is produced comes out of this line as well.

Legislator Nacerino stated the \$500 reduction is a modest one. She also stated if that the \$500 is needed, the Legislature has the flexibility to transfer funds in.

#### Legislature

FROM: TO:

Office Supplies

10101001 54310 5,500 5,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: (500)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO.

LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Chairman Othmer moved the following:

**Equipment Rental** 

10101001 54560 2,250 2,025

A DIFFERENCE OF: (225)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

Chairman Othmer moved the following:

Legislator Nacerino stated these deductions are modest and the flexibility within the lines can help if necessary.

Legislator Oliverio stated this budget is sound; the reduction is modest, however shaving such little money off the requested amount does not make sense. He stated printing always seems to exceed the amount requested.

Legislator Nacerino stated it is important to trim the fat wherever possible.

**County Executive** 

FROM: TO:

**Furniture** 

10123000 52110 1,000 900

A DIFFERENCE OF: (100)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**Chairman Othmer moved the following:** 

**Printing** 

10123000 54311 700 630

A DIFFERENCE OF: (70)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**Chairman Othmer moved the following:** 

**County Clerk** 

FROM: TO:

**Education & Training** 

10141000 54640 3,000 2,500

A DIFFERENCE OF: (500)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

**Chairman Othmer moved the following:** 

Legislator LoBue stated her opinion on this increase has changed from the last meeting where she supported it. She stated this change is due to the management raises and that she believes an equal playing field must be created.

Legislator Oliverio stated he is in favor of this increase and he would like to see the same go to other outside agencies as well.

Legislator Gross stated the Southeast Museum has expanded their programs and their attendance has been increasing and he is supportive of this budget increase.

Legislator DiCarlo stated all outside agencies should receive the same percentage to make it fair.

Chairman Othmer stated other agencies should request an increase.

FROM: TO:

**County Contribution** 

25756400 54950 27,000 30,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 3,000

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. THREE NAYS – LEGISLATOR ALBANO, LEGISLATOR DICARLO, LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

#### **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

FROM: TO:

**County Contribution** 

25875000 54950 296,940 305,848

A DIFFERENCE OF: 8,908

Chairman Othmer stated the amount will change due to a built in factor of the phone and computer lines being put onto the County's system. He stated this will result in a savings of \$5,000.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. THREE NAYS – LEGISLATOR ALBANO, LEGISLATOR DICARLO, LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (Chairman Oliverio, Legislators DiCarlo & Scuccimarra)

#### Partnership Initiative – Update Electrical for Ramp/Lift @ Lake Carmel Community Center

FROM: TO:

10101001 54936 0 5,000

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,000

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

# PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (Chairman DiCarlo, Legislators Gross & Nacerino)

## Management Salary Increase of 1.50%, exclusive of Mgmt Adjustments

FROM: TO:

0 114,885

A DIFFERENCE OF: 114,885

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly 8,789

A DIFFERENCE OF: 8,789

Legislator LoBue stated that because of the inequities she could not support cherry picking management for raises. She stated that we discussed going across the board at a 1.5% salary increase exclusive of management adjustments. She believes that there is low morale in the County workforce. She stated that we appreciate what everyone does and in these hard times she will be supporting 1.5% raise across the board.

Legislator Oliverio stated that management (non-union) personnel have given up personal days, vacation days, sick days and the reward has been a stagnant wage increase and therefore he is fully in favor of this 1.5% increase.

Legislator Gross stated that we have management personnel who are making less money than their union employees. He stated that we need to work to correct this inequity across the board.

Legislator Nacerino stated that we need to analyze this and look closer. She stated this should have been recognized a long time ago and it is not something that can be fixed in a two week timeframe.

Legislator Albano stated that he is not in support of this. He stated that we do not live in a perfect world. He stated that he would love to give everyone a raise but the numbers are tight. He stated that if someone is going over and above and their department head

asks for a raise for them then he is willing to consider that but to give a blanket raise is to say that everyone does their job equally and that is not always the case either. He stated that it breaks his heart to vote "no" against this but he will be voting "no".

Legislator DiCarlo stated that we asked for any changes to be given to us months in advance of the budget so we could vet it out and be prepared for budget time but that did not happen.

Legislator Oliverio stated that this is a different topic from that and this would be giving something to our managers that we tried to do years ago. He stated that years ago we decided to give the management workforce an increase and gave them 1/3 of the total increase that year. He stated that the next year was supposed to be the second 1/3 of the increase but the economy receded and then County Executive Bondi pulled back on the increase and nothing has been done since then. He stated that we need to follow through on the other 2/3s of the increase for our management personnel.

Chairman Othmer stated that this originated from the Legislature and not the County Executive's Office.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that is correct and it is everyone who is not already slated to get a raise in management will get the 1.5% raise.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: THREE AYES. FIVE NAYS – LEGISLATOR ALBANO, LEGISLATOR GROSS, LEGISLATOR NACERINO, LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA, AND CHAIRMAN OTHMER. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION FAILS.

FROM	۱۰	T	n	١-

Coordinator of Coroners

Stipend Adjustment

118510991 5,576 4,576

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,000)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

FROM: TO:

**County Executive's Office** 

Salary Adjustment

123010906 9,500 5,000

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (4,500)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

FROM:	TO:
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**Finance Dept.** 

**Salary Adjustment** 

**131010908 5,856 4,618** 

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,238)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.

FROM: TO:

**Board of Elections** 

**Salary Adjustment** 

145010901 8,000 3,174

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (4,826)

FROM: TO:

**Board of Elections** 

**Salary Adjustment** 

145010902 8,000 3,174

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (4,826)

Legislator Nacerino stated that the \$8,000 was based on a good faith agreement and she believes that we should honor that agreement.

Chairman Othmer stated that he agrees with Legislator Nacerino. He stated that we came to this agreement under County Executive Paul Eldridge.

Legislator Gross stated that he spoke with many legislators and there was an agreement made several years ago. He further stated that it was a part-time position and now a full-time position though the job description does not say so; he still believes we should honor that agreement.

Legislator Oliverio stated he was not part of that agreement and he assumes it was reached in a caucus of some sorts. He stated he completely disagrees and stated that he would support a reduction to a \$5,000 increase.

Personnel Director Paul Eldridge stated that for the record it was not part of any caucus. He stated that the increase was agreed to be for four years and this is the third year.

Legislator Albano stated that this is one of those inequities that we discovered years ago and we've moved to correct it and he will support the original increase.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: ONE AYE. SEVEN NAYS – LEGISLATOR ALBANO, LEGISLATOR DICARLO, LEGISLATOR GROSS, LEGISLATOR LOBUE, LEGISLATOR NACERINO, LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA, AND CHAIRMAN OTHMER. LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO WAS ABSENT. MOTION FAILS.

FROM: TO:

**Health Department** 

Salary Adjustment

401010904 6,935 4,935

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (2,000)

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: NINE AYES. MOTION CARRIES. (LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO

ARRIVED AT 6:09 P.M.)

FROM: TO:

**Historian's Office** 

Salary Adjustment

751110902 3,000 1,698

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: (1,302)

Chairman Othmer stated that the individual in this position deserves the full \$3,000 raise so he will be voting "no" on this decrease in the raise for this position.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she will also vote "no" on this. She stated that this position has evolved and this is an equitable increase.

Legislator Albano stated that he will be voting "no" on the next two because these are positions that go over and above and they deserve the raises the County Executive put in the budget.

Legislator Oliverio stated that this is where the reference to the 1.5% increase across the board takes relevance. He stated that we have managers and directors receiving nothing by majority vote for the next fiscal year and we have almost an over 10% raise to certain individuals. He stated that he will be voting "yes" for this raise reduction because he thinks it's only fair.

Legislator Albano stated that keep in mind 10% of a \$10,000 salary is a lot different than 5% of a \$100,000 salary. He stated that some of these numbers are so low that we are just bringing them back to reality.

Legislator Oliverio stated that is what the job entails and the individual willingly took that position knowing that.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that these positions have evolved and are changing and we cannot keep them at the same salary.

Legislator Oliverio stated that that is exactly why we should have passed the 1.5% raise for all management personnel. He stated that we need to send a message out that is equitable or we don't.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that we have had lengthy discussions this year regarding certain laws which in the end we did not pass because we did not want to have winners and losers yet we sit here doing the same exact thing to our own personnel and he agrees with Legislator Oliverio.

Legislator Nacerino stated that this person makes a little more than minimum wage and now that this position has evolved and is greatly intertwined with Tourism and Promotion the County Executive has suggested a raise. She stated that it is really hard to undo what has been in place for all of these years in two weeks. She stated that we are trying to go through each position, job by job, to make those assessments to bring them up to what is reasonable and customary. She believes this is reasonable and customary.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he respectfully disagrees. He stated that he tries to keep his vote consistent and around 5% unless it is extraordinary circumstances. He stated that he believes all the management personnel should get something. He stated that we honor one or we honor none. He stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel was supposed to fix that but it only did it for 1/3 of the increase for the management workforce.

Legislator Albano stated that he would love to reward everyone but we do not want to eliminate jobs and there is a math figure to work with. He stated that although he would love to, we can't fix the world today.

Legislator LoBue stated that these inequities are counterproductive. She stated that we have positions that are not career paths. She stated that we should give everyone a little something to show that we value our workforce. She stated doing it this way is erratic. She stated that there is no other way to achieve a raise but to have the Department Head ask for it on behalf of the individual. She stated that if it was up to her no one across the board would be getting a raise.

Legislator Gross stated that these are inequities and we need to keep in mind that contract negotiations are still going on.

Personnel Director Eldridge stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel came after there was a 50% reduction in management personnel's personal and sick time and a 10% reduction in vacation time. He stated that was done because the County Executive at the time asked management personnel what was more important: time off or a salary that is appropriate to the market. He stated that almost all management personnel responded

that a salary that is appropriate or close to the market was more important to them. He stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel then came to review what the market rates were and came up with a complete set of recommendations and because it came to a level that could not be done in one year it was agreed it would be done over three years. He stated that all management personnel received a third of what the increase was. He stated the next two levels of increases for all management personnel were never done although the commitment was made.

Chairman Othmer asked what year that was.

Director Eldridge stated it was 2005 and recommendations were made in early 2006. He stated that management personnel agreed to give up the time for the raise. He stated they all got a little bit of the raise but never the entire thing. He stated it is very difficult to change union contracts and that is something to keep in mind because those laws and percentages have been in place since approximately the 1950s. He reminded everyone of the Triboro Doctrine and the Triboro Amendment.

Chairman Othmer asked if the Blue Ribbon Panel could be restarted.

Director Eldridge stated that yes it could.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: TWO AYES. SIX NAYES – LEGISLATOR ALBANO, LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO, LEGISLATOR GROSS, LEGISLATOR NACERINO, LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA, AND CHAIRMAN OTHMER. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. MOTION FAILS.

	FROM:	TO:
Historian's Office		
Salary Adjustment		
751110901	13,593	5,000
Adjust fringes and revenues	accordingly	

A DIFFERENCE OF: (8,593)

Chairman Othmer stated that he would like to amend this from \$5,000 to \$7,000 because he is afraid of losing this person.

Chairman Othmer made a motion to amend from \$5,000 to \$7,000, seconded by Legislator Scuccimarra.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYES – LEGISLATOR GROSS, LEGISLATOR LOBUE, AND LEGISLATOR NACERINO. MOTION CARRIES.

	FROM:	TO:
Office For Disabilities		
198910101		

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: 23,970

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: NINE AYES. MOTION CARRIES.

FROM: TO:

**District Attorney's Office** 

**Criminal Investigator** 0 60,000 Proposed Salary \$60,000 Fringes \$24,051

Chairman Othmer stated that although we have bilingual investigators we do not have a bilingual female investigator. He stated that this position would be investigating rape cases. He stated that he will support this position in this department.

Legislator Gross stated that we definitely need this position. He questioned if someone was hired that was a retired police officer if the fringes would decrease.

Chairman Othmer stated that the fringes would decrease and the individual would likely suspend their police officer pension while they worked as the investigator similar to our SPO Officers.

Board of Elections Commissioner Anthony Scannapieco stated they would need to complete a 211 waiver.

Legislator Oliverio stated he supports the position but he is grappling with where this position should be; in the prosecuting office of the District Attorney or the law enforcement investigative team of the Sheriff's Department. He asked if it could be put in contingency until we can have more discussion. He stated that he is talking with other District Attorneys and Sheriffs in the surrounding areas but would like to take more time to think about this. He stated it does not harm anything to put this position into contingency because it would not start until 2014 anyway.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that we heard the debate and he believes it is a needed position and it needs to be in the District Attorney's office.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated that she agrees with Legislator DiCarlo.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she also believes it should be in the District Attorney's Office.

Legislator Albano stated he supports this in the District Attorney's Office.

Legislator Gross stated that he believes moving this into contingency would affect the hiring process.

Legislator Oliverio stated that it would not because the money is there. He stated he is getting conflicting information from others and he would like one more month.

Legislator Gross stated he believed we should fund as is and move forward.

Legislator LoBue stated that she believes we need to move forward with this in the District Attorney's Office.

Chairman Othmer stated that police departments can still hire investigators. He stated that this is another resource.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: NINE AYES. MOTION CARRIES.

FROM: TO:

Planning Dept.

Deputy Commissioner of Planning 80,000 Sub-Contingency

802010110

**Tentative Budget Amount \$80,000** 

Legislator Oliverio stated that he has always felt that the Deputy Commissioner of Planning is needed. He stated that he spoke with the Former Commissioner of Planning and he stated this is a position that should be included in the department.

Legislator LoBue stated she is not in favor of this position. She stated that she would like to move this to Sub-Contingency.

Chairman Othmer asked Director Eldridge where they were in the process of hiring a Commissioner of Planning.

Director Eldridge stated they are in the process of interviewing.

Legislator LoBue made a motion to move this position into Sub-Contingency, seconded by Legislator Oliverio.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: NINE AYES. MOTION CARRIES.

AUDIT & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Chairman Castellano, Legislators Albano & Nacerino)

FROM: TO:

Highways & Facilities
Deputy Commissioner
Salary Adjustment

149010911 0 5,000

Adjust fringes and revenues accordingly

A DIFFERENCE OF: 5,000

Chairman Othmer stated his support of the individual in this position. He stated that he would like to make this \$7,500 instead of \$5,000.

Legislator Albano stated he would second that.

Legislator Oliverio stated that to give that type of raise after 1 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> years of this individual being in this particular position when this individual knows how management does not get raises, Legislator Oliverio stated that he could not support this. He stated that the \$5,000 was a compromise from the \$15,000.

Legislator LoBue stated that this person is well aware of the County because he has been in various lateral positions throughout County departments. She stated that the County Executive did not approve the \$15,000 request.

Legislator Gross stated that he is going to stick with the agreement of \$5,000 though he would like to give this individual more money.

Chairman Othmer made a motion to amend from \$5,000 to \$7,500, seconded by Legislator Albano.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: THREE AYES. SIX NAYES – LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO, LEGISLATOR DICARLO, LEGISLATOR GROSS, LEGISLATOR LOBUE, LEGISLATOR NACERINO, AND LEGISLATOR OLIVERIO. MOTION FAILS.

Chairman Othmer called to a vote the proposed \$5,000 Salary Adjustment.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: EIGHT AYES. ONE ABSTENTION – LEGISLATOR LOBUE. MOTION CARRIES.

#### 4) OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Othmer made a motion to accept Other Business Items, seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

## 4a) Request for Legal Consulting Services by Sheriff's Department

Chairman Othmer stated that he received a letter from Sheriff Smith requesting that the retiring Captain McNamara, who is a lawyer and will be opening his own private law firm upon retirement from the Sheriff's Department on November 30, 2013, be contracted for his department for legal consulting services in the annual sum of \$30,000. He stated that there is no place in the New York State law for the Sheriff's Department to have a legal department. He stated if there is a civil problem it funnels through the County Attorney's office and if there is a criminal problem it funnels through the District Attorney's office. He stated that when a third column is made like this it creates confusion and cases can be jeopardized or compromised. He stated he does not believe this is appropriate. He stated he is not sure if the Legislature were to fund this, if it would need to go to an RFP. He further stated that looking at the job description that Captain McNamara currently holds, the description was changed in 1994 when the Captain passed the bar in 1992 so it seems that his current job description was changed to fit his special set of skills. He stated that the job description has legal requirements and in his opinion the Sheriff has the right to fill this now vacant position with someone just like Captain McNamara.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he agrees with Chairman Othmer. He stated that he is very fond of our law enforcement but in clear conscience he cannot support this request. He stated that we did do away with the Confidential Advisor position last year and if indeed counsel is needed then hire a law enforcement agent with a law degree.

Legislator Nacerino stated she agrees. She stated that the District Attorney and the County Attorney offices are the proper channels. She stated that we do not want departments creating their own governments; that is not the intent.

Legislator Albano stated that he agrees.

Legislator LoBue stated that she cannot support the request at this time. She stated that the position that Captain McNamara holds right now is fully funded in the budget for next year and the Sheriff has the opportunity to fill that position.

Legislator Gross stated that Captain McNamara's current position has a legal initiative within the description and someone should be hired with that background to fill that vacant position.

#### 4b) Blue Ribbon Panel

Chairman Othmer stated that he believes the Blue Ribbon Panel should be reintroduced. He stated that he would like to put \$30,000 for this.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he served on the last Panel and that it was truly a volunteer effort. He stated it was a long process and took about six months without cost. He stated that he has no problem putting maybe \$10,000 for printing or correspondence but not \$30,000.

Legislator Nacerino stated that she would like to be part of the Panel in hopes of moving the County forward. She asked what the \$30,000 was to be used for.

Legislator Oliverio stated he thinks Chairman Othmer thought there would be consultants.

Chairman Othmer suggested \$20,000.

Legislator Oliverio stated it was a volunteer panel.

Legislator LoBue stated that she thinks Chairman Othmer is asking for the \$30,000 for the salary increases that would result from the Panel's recommendations.

Chairman Othmer stated the \$30,000 was for salary increases. He stated that we need to fund managers that are being out paid by their employees.

Legislator Oliverio stated by June the study would be completed. He stated that he would not support putting in \$30,000 for salary increases right now.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that we should not reinvent the wheel. He stated that the next body of legislators needs to make that commitment just like the commitment was made to the commissioners. He stated that what is ironic is we say that we want to be equitable but we were not tonight. He stated that Chairman Othmer and Legislator Oliverio had a meeting with the County Auditor and they came up with the blanket 1.5% raise without the opinion of the Personnel Committee Chair, himself. He stated that then you voted not to do it. He stated that we are the epitome of political creatures, we look at something, we debate it, time goes by, we get lobbied, just like the Federal Government, and we change our vote. He stated if we are going to do this moving forward, do it, stick to it, be equitable, and then we will be transparent. He stated do it and do it right.

Legislator Albano stated that conceptually it is a great idea and he thinks we should look at it because we could move in that direction slightly. He stated that the bottom line is that we have agreements and contracts that are not in tune with what is going on in the world; those things we can never change. He stated the only other option is to adjust the numbers up and we know we don't have the numbers. He stated we can identify maybe the worst scenarios and fix those slightly. He stated that it is almost impossible to fix when you have a contract that doesn't move along with what is happening in the economy.

Legislator Oliverio stated that the Blue Ribbon Panel analyzed every non-union salary in the County and compared it. He stated that there were some positions that were making more and some making less than surrounding counties.

Chairman Othmer stated that he apologizes to Legislator DiCarlo for not including him in that meeting. He further stated that the 1.5% was thrown out there to see where we wanted to go with this.

Legislator Nacerino stated she does not agree with giving raises outside of budget season. She further stated that the Panel will give us time to think the whole process through.

Chairman Othmer asked County Auditor what percentage raise in real property tax the budget was at now.

County Auditor Michele Alfano-Sharkey stated it is at a 1.95% raise.

Chairman Othmer stated that based on that he withdraws his suggestion to put money aside for the Blue Ribbon Panel for next year.

#### 4c) Tourism

Legislator LoBue made a motion to place the \$15,000 increase for the Tourism budget into Sub-Contingency. She stated that then the Legislature would be kept apprised of what is going on in Tourism and the Tourism Director can come to us and request the funds. Legislator Oliverio seconded that motion.

Legislator Oliverio agreed and stated that we need to do our due diligence because this budget has increased dramatically.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYES – LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO, LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA, AND CHAIRMAN OTHMER. MOTION CARRIES.

#### 4d) Economic Development Corporation

Legislator LoBue made a motion to place the \$25,000 increase for the Economic Development Corporation budget into Sub-Contingency. She stated that then the Legislature would be kept apprised of what is going on and the EDC President can come to us and request the funds. Legislator Oliverio seconded that motion.

Legislator Oliverio agreed and stated that we need to do our due diligence because this budget has increased dramatically.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SIX AYES. THREE NAYES – LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO, LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA, AND CHAIRMAN OTHMER. MOTION CARRIES.

#### 4e) Sales Tax Revenue Increase

Legislator Oliverio stated that he would like to increase the Sales Tax Revenue budget a small amount to bring the percentage of the budget back down to 1.66% from 1.95%. He stated that this would increase the Sales Tax Revenue budget line by \$112,000 to offset the budget changes.

Commissioner of Finance Bill Carlin stated that the more you raise that number the weaker the budget but obviously it is a small amount.

Legislator LoBue stated that she cautions her colleagues to do this offsetting right now because this is not the final budget and there is still one more meeting to vote on items before the budget is final and the amendments are passed along to the County Executive. She stated that she believes we should wait to see what is changed on the floor at that meeting and then change the Sales Tax Revenue number to offset the final votes for changes.

Legislator Oliverio stated that he would prefer that we make this adjustment right now so we are going into the final meeting at a 1.66%. He stated does not want to go into the last meeting already over the tax cap of 1.66%.

Legislator Albano stated that he seconds Legislator Oliverio's motion. He stated that he hates to do this but it is a small increase and not a number he will lose sleep over.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: FIVE AYES. FOUR NAYES – LEGISLATOR CASTELLANO, LEGISLATOR DICARLO, LEGISLATOR LOBUE, AND LEGISLATOR SCUCCIMARRA. MOTION CARRIES.

Legislator DiCarlo stated that today departments throughout the Putnam County Government participated in Disabilities Mentoring Day for the second year in a row. He stated staff reports that it was a great success. He stated he thanks the County Executive for putting this program forward and to everyone who took part in it.

Legislator Gross stated that the Legislative Office was left out of the correspondence announcing this program but that the Legislative Office did in fact participate again this year in having a volunteer in our office.

There being no further business, at 7:20 P.M., Legislator Oliverio made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator DiCarlo. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Krista M. Butler, Administrative Assistant.